Remarks

The present response adds new claims 9-10, supported by the specification, e.g., pages 11-12 and the examples on pages 14-20, and requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable based on Blazey. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The discussion herein illustrates the patentability of claims 7-8 and new claims 9-10.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP 2143.03 citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974) (emphasis in original).

It is submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. The Office Action does not purport to explain how the press coat is allegedly taught or suggested by Blazey.

Instead, the Office Action alleges that "Blazey et al's first layer can be viewed as a primer coat and second layer can be viewed as a topcoat." Even if true, it would not make either layer a press coat. Indeed, neither a primer coat nor additional layers of a UV cured coating function as does the claimed press coat as shown by the examples, especially examples 4A and 4B on pages 17-18 and 5A and 5B on pages 18-19.

Additionally, the Office Action alleges that the claimed press coat is a process step. This is not understood. The claims are composition claims directed to a substrate with a press coat and a radiation curable/cured coating thereon.

Finally, the record does not make obvious the claimed amount of unreacted double bonds in the substrate being less than 15%.

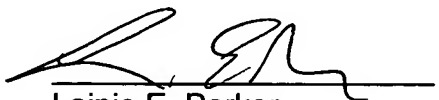
Blazey discloses wooden substrates coated with at least one layer of a UV curable polymer, see column 2, lines 27-35. The polymer is generally admixed with a photoinitiator (column 4, lines 13-14). After application, the uncured polymer layer settles upon the surface of the substrate, the first layer occupying the pores thereof, see column 4, lines 64-66.

It is difficult to cure any uncured polymer which has settled into the pores of the substrate, thus causing a health/safety/environmental risk. See, for example, page 6, lines 16-21, of the specification. This problem is addressed by including a press coat in the claimed invention. See, for example, page 6, lines 16-21, of the specification.

The percentage of unreacted double bonds in the substrate after UV curing is much less (3%) when a press coat is in place, than when 6 UV coating layers are used (about 20%), as demonstrated by examples 4A and 4B. See pages 17-18 of the specification. It is, thus, unreasonable to think that Blazey could have less than 15% unreacted double bonds in the substrate, as claimed, even if there is more than one UV coating layer.

In accordance with the above discussion, claims 7-10 are submitted to be patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



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